

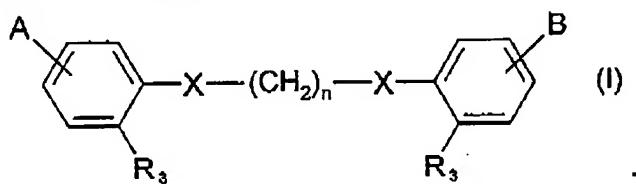
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. (Cancelled)

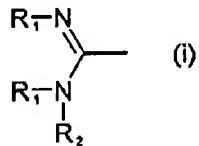
17. (Previously presented) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

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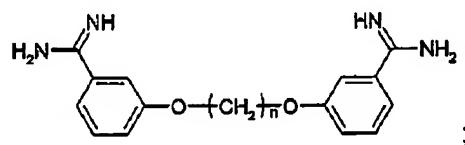
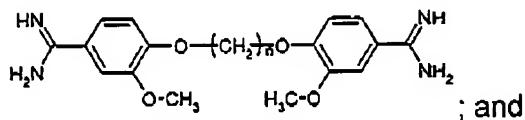
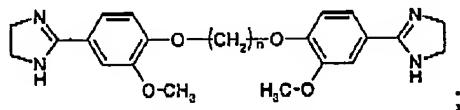
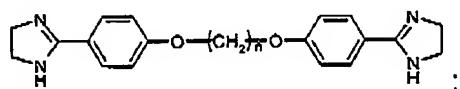
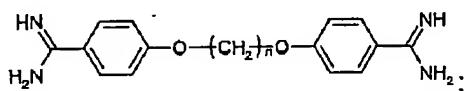
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 2 to 6; and

X is O, NH, or S;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

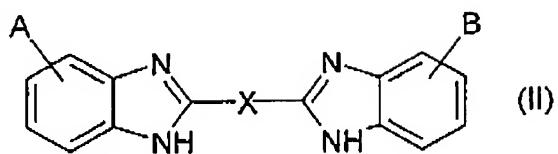
19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



wherein n is an integer from 2 to 6;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

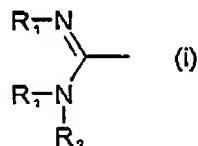
20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (II):

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wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



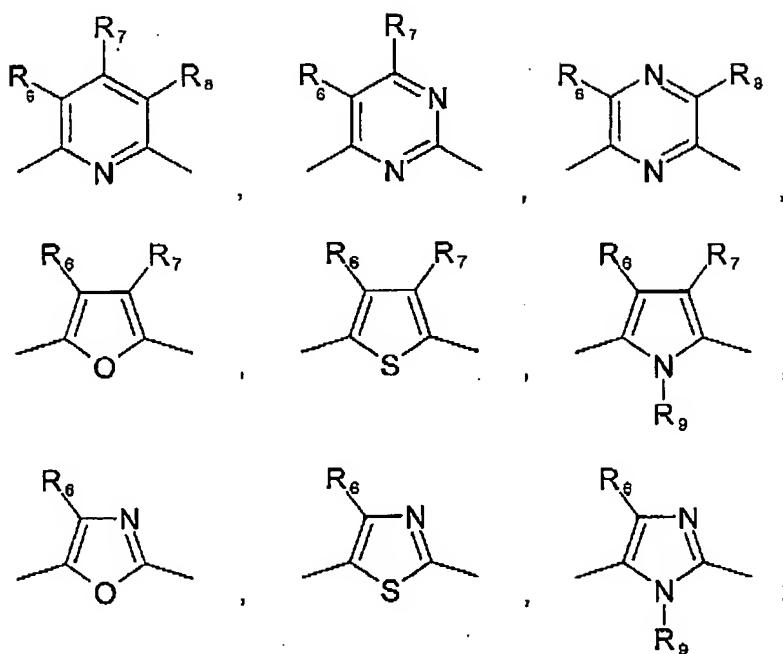
subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

X is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₁₂ alkyl comprising up to 4 double bonds; or X is a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:

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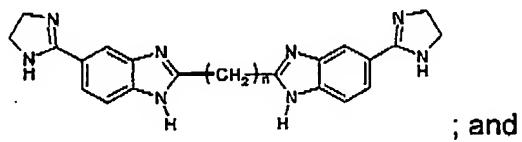
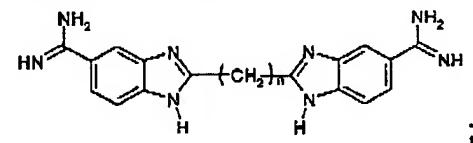


wherein

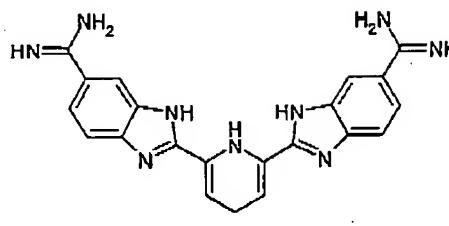
R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 20, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



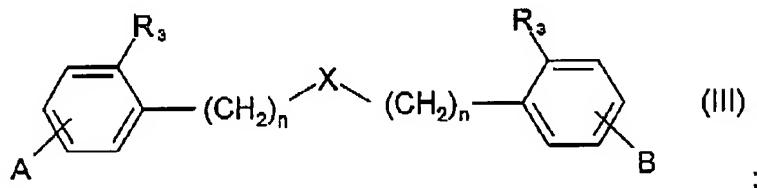
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;

wherein n is an integer from 1 to 12;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

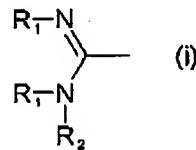
22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (III):



;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



(i)

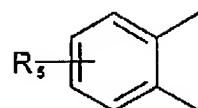
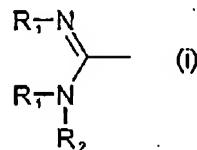
subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent

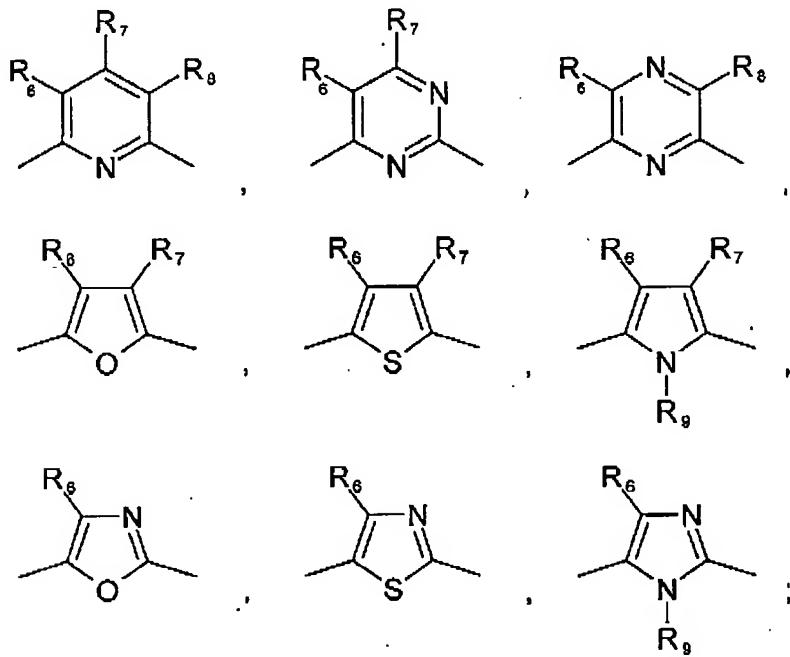
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wherein R_5 is

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 0 to 2; and

X is CH_2O or a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



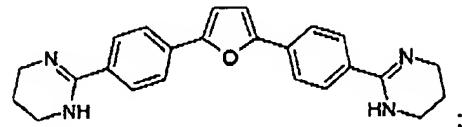
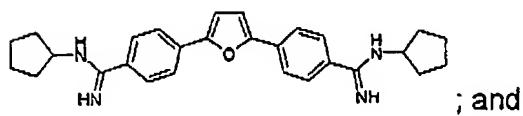
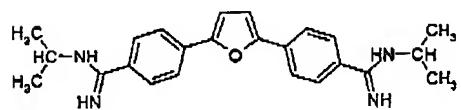
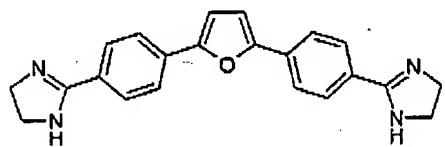
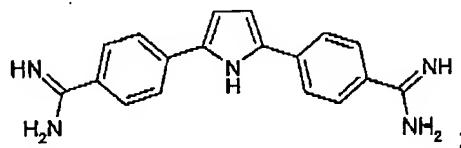
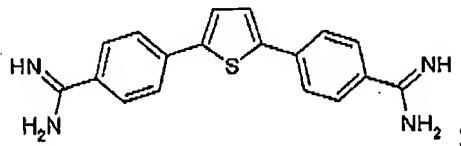
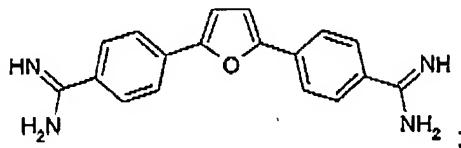
wherein:

R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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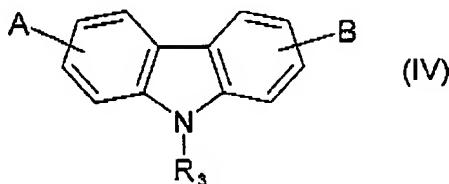
23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 22 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



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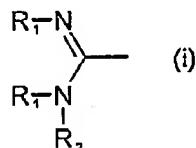
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (IV):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):

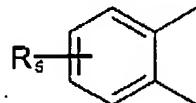


subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

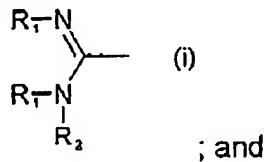
R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



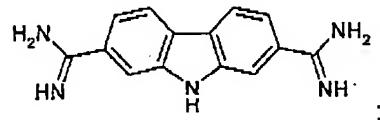
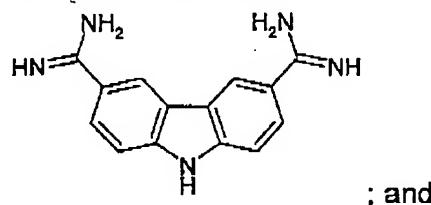
wherein R₅ is



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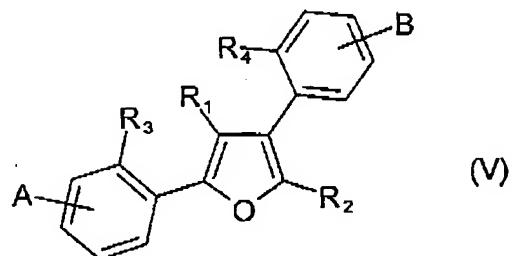
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



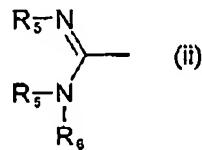
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (V):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (ii):



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subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (ii);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aminoaryl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

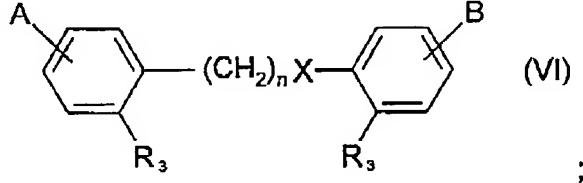
R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkylaryl, aryl, oxyaryl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or halogen;

each R₅ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

or two R₅ groups together represent C₂ to C₁₀ alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkylene; and

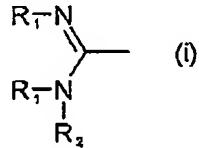
R₆ is H, hydroxy, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxyycloalkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (VI):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

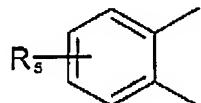
R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

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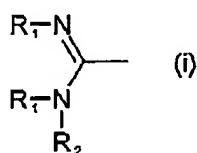
or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent — (CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

R₃ is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R₅ is

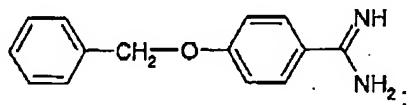
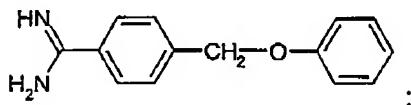
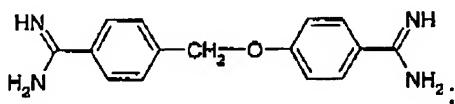


X is O, S, or NH;

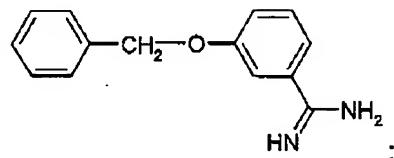
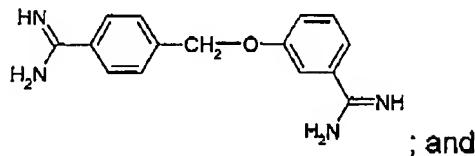
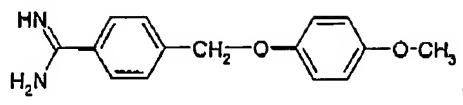
n is an integer from 1 to 8;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



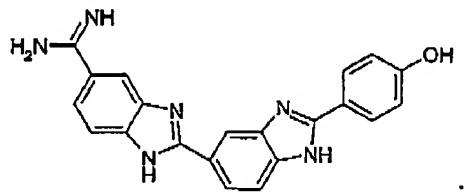
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a bis-benzamidine.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a compound having the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the subject is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

32-48. (Canceled)